



Wigston College

POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION

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APPROVED BY:	Board of Trustees
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Signed by Chair of Trustees:

Date: 23/10/23

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Named staff and contacts

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Pete Leatherland, Senior Deputy Headteacher
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Natasha Box, Deputy DSL
- Designated Teacher for Children in Care Sarah Bishop, Assistant Headteacher
- Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Shelia Lamb (Trustee)

Service Manager - Safeguarding and Performance Service

Hayley Binley 01163057566 / 07538562293

LADO / Allegations:

Kim Taylor – 0116 3055641 / Lovona Brown 0116 305 8161

Safeguarding Development Officer:

Charlotte Davies – 0116 305 3365

First Response Children's Duty (Tier 4 Same-day referrals)

Telephone 0116 3050005

Email childrensduty@leics.gov.uk

Address First Response Children's Duty
Room 100b
County Hall
Championship Way
Glenfield
LE3 8RF

All other referrals including Early Help (Children & Family Wellbeing) Service

<http://lrsb.org.uk/childreport>

Early Help queries and Consultation Line 0116 3058727

1 Introduction

1.1 Wigston College fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect young people and support young people in College. The aim of the policy is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive environment. We encourage young people to talk about their worries and to report their concerns to us in a number of alternative ways. The pupils' welfare is of paramount importance.

1.2 This policy is consistent with:

- the legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people, as described in section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and the statutory guidance "*Keeping children safe in education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges*", 2022 and "*Working Together to Safeguard Children*", 2018.
- the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
- Part 3 of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, which places a duty on academies and independent schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school/College.

1.3 There are four main elements to our Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy:

- **Prevention** (e.g. positive College atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to pupils, safer recruitment procedures);
- **Protection** (by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns);
- **Support** (to pupils and College staff and to young people who may have been harmed or abused);
- **Working with parents** (to ensure appropriate communications and actions are undertaken).

1.4 This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, governors, trustees and visitors to the College. We recognise that child protection is the responsibility of all adults in College. We will ensure that all parents and other working partners are aware of our child protection policy by mentioning it in our College prospectus, displaying appropriate information in our reception and on the College website and by raising awareness at meetings with parents as appropriate.

1.5 **Extended College activities**

Where the Trust or Governing Body provides services or activities directly under the supervision or management of College staff, the College's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Trust or Governing Body will seek assurance in writing that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place to safeguard and protect young people (inspecting these where needed) and that there are arrangements to liaise with the College on these matters where appropriate. Safeguarding requirements will be included in any lease or hire agreement as a condition of use; and any failure to comply will lead to termination of the agreement.

2 **Safeguarding Commitment**

2.1 For the purposes of this policy, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people is defined as:

- protecting young people from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of young people's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all young people to have the best outcomes.

2.2 The College adopts an open and accepting attitude towards young people as part of its responsibility for pastoral care. Staff encourage young people and parents to feel free to talk about any concerns and to see College as a safe place when there are difficulties. Young people's worries and fears will be taken seriously and young people are encouraged to seek help from members of staff.

2.3 Our College will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where all young people (including those having protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010) feel secure and are encouraged to report concerns, talk, and are listened to;
- Ensure that young people's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what actions to take and services to provide and that they are able to express their views and give feedback. We will always seek to act in the best interests of young people.
- Ensure that young people know that there are adults in the College whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty and that there are alternative ways to report concerns;
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE / Citizenship / Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education which equip young people with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online and other contexts young people are in), and to know to whom they can turn for help; The College also operates a 'Speak Out' box system which students can

report concerns or issues. They also have access to a pastoral team across the various sites. DSL's and ASL's are displayed across the site too.

- Ensure any outside agencies/speakers deliver age appropriate material with relevant checks for the content made in advance.
- Ensure every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies;
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out and recorded on the single central record for new staff and volunteers who will work with young people, including identity, right to work, enhanced DBS criminal record and barred list (and overseas where needed), references, and prohibition from teaching or managing in schools (s.128) etc (see "Keeping children safe in education" part 3).
- Some young people have an increased risk of abuse, both online and offline, and additional barriers can exist for some young people with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise young people's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all young people have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give additional consideration to young people who:

- Have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or health conditions.
- Are young carers.
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality.
- Have English as an additional language.
- Are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence.
- Are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage or radicalisation.
- Are asylum seekers.
- Are at risk due to either their own or a family member's mental health needs.
- Are look after or previously looked after.
- Are missing or absent from education for prolonged periods and/or repeat occasions.
- Whose parent/carer has expressed an intention to remove them from College to be home educated.

2.4 Safeguarding in the Curriculum

Young people are taught about safeguarding in College. The following areas are among those addressed in PSHCE and Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education and in the wider curriculum: -

- Bullying (including Cyberbullying)
- Drugs, alcohol and substance misuse (including awareness of County Lines and the Criminal Exploitation of young people where appropriate)

- Online safety
- The danger of meeting up with strangers
- Fire and water safety
- Road safety
- Domestic Abuse
- Healthy Relationships / Consent
- (so called) Honour Based Abuse issues e.g. forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Sexual exploitation of young people (CSE), including online
- Child criminal exploitation (including cybercrime)
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation (see Appendices 4 and 5)

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 General

All adults working with or on behalf of young people have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse and to record and report concerns to staff identified with child protection responsibilities within the College.

The names of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for the current year are listed at the start of this document.

All staff will:

- Read and understand part 1 and annex B of the Department for Education’s statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, and review this guidance at least annually.
- Sign a declaration at the beginning of each academic year to say that they have reviewed the guidance.
- Reinforce the importance of online safety when communicating with parents and carers. This includes making parents and carers aware of what we ask young people to do online (e.g. sites they need to visit or who they’ll be interacting with online).
- Provide a safe space for students who are LGBTQ+ to speak out and share their concerns.

3.2 Governing Body and Trust

In accordance with the statutory guidance “Keeping children safe in education” 2022, the Governing Body and Trust will ensure that:-

- The College has its own child protection/safeguarding policy, procedures and training in place which are effective and comply with the law at all times. The policy is made available publicly.
- All staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, and that such training is regularly updated and in line with safeguarding partners.

- All governors and Trustees receive safeguarding training on induction which is regularly updated. This training will be appropriate to their role offering strategic challenge to the College.
- The College operates safer recruitment practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff and volunteers. Furthermore, the Headteacher, nominated Trustee or Governors and other staff involved in the recruitment process have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training.
- There are procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns (including lower level concerns) and allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers (see Appendix 2).
- There is a senior member of the College's leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection (the "Designated Safeguarding Lead") and there is always cover for this role with appropriate arrangements for before/after College and out of term time activities.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes effective Local Authority training (in addition to basic child protection training) and this is refreshed every two years. In addition to this formal training, their knowledge and skills are updated at regular intervals (at least annually) using safeguarding briefings etc.
- The Headteacher, and all other staff and volunteers who work with young people, undertake appropriate training which is regularly updated at least annually, (and more comprehensively, every three years in compliance with the Safeguarding Children Partnership protocol); and new staff and volunteers who work with young people are made aware of the College's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities (including this policy, Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (or Annex A, if appropriate), the pupil behaviour policy, the staff behaviour policy (code of conduct), the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and how to respond to young people who go missing from education). The Local Authority Induction leaflet, ("Safeguarding in Education Induction – Child Protection Information, Safer Working Practice") will be used as part of this induction and Annex B from "Keeping children safe in education" 2022 is provided to all staff working directly with young people.
- Any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to the attention of the Trustees / Governing Body will be rectified without delay.
- The Chair of Trustees (or, in the absence of a Chair, the Vice Chair) deals with any safeguarding concerns or allegations of abuse made against the Executive Headteacher, in liaison with the Local Authority Allegations Manager (LADO). The Executive Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Executive Headteacher, the Chair of Trustees) deals with any safeguarding concerns or allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher, in liaison with the LADO.

- Effective policies and procedures are in place and updated annually including a behaviour “code of conduct” for staff and volunteers. This code of conduct incorporates all the areas addressed in the “Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those who work with young people in education settings Feb 2022” (supplemented where necessary by the COVID-19 Addendum April 2020). Information is provided to the Local Authority (acting on behalf of the Safeguarding Children Partnership) through the Safeguarding Annual Return.
- There is an individual member of the Trust / Governing Body who will champion issues to do with safeguarding young people and child protection within the College, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and provide information and compliance/monitoring reports to the Trust / Governing Body.
- The College contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2018 including providing a co-ordinated offer of Early Help for young people who require this. This Early Help may be offered directly through College provision or via referral to an external support agency. Safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership. It will:
 - Ensure that the College has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and review their effectiveness. This includes:
 - Make sure that the leadership team and staff are aware of the provisions in place and that they understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring as part of safeguarding training.
 - Review the DfE’s filtering and monitoring standards and discussing with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support the College in meeting these standards.

3.3 **Headteacher**

The Headteacher of the College will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Trust / Governing Body are effectively implemented and followed by all staff;
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of young people;
- That staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers are informed of our systems which support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction.

- Understand and follow the procedures included in this policy, particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect.
- Allegations of abuse or concerns that a member of staff or adult working at College may pose a risk of harm to young people are notified to the Local Authority Designated Officer, where the threshold is met.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to young people, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner. The NSPCC whistle blowing helpline number is also available (0800 028 0285).
- All staff are made aware that they have an individual responsibility to pass on safeguarding concerns and that if all else fails to report these directly to Children's Social Care (Children and Family Specialist Services) or the Police.
- Ensure all staff receive regular safeguarding training, which includes online safety and understanding of the expectations, roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring.

3.4 Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy) will always be available for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The responsibilities of the DSL are found in Annex C of "Keeping children safe in education". The DSL is a senior member of staff on the senior leadership team and the role is explicit in their job description. Responsibilities include:

- **Managing referrals** – to the local authority young people's social care, to the Channel programme, to the Disclosure and Barring Service for staff dismissed for safeguarding concerns (as required), to the Police where a crime may have been committed
- **Working with others** – to act as a source of support and advice, to act as a point of contact for the safeguarding partners, to liaise with the headteacher or principal about issues especially to do with ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations, to liaise with staff when deciding to make a referral to relevant agencies so that young people's needs are considered holistically, to liaise with the senior mental health lead, to promote supportive engagement with parents and carers, to take the lead in promoting educational outcomes for young people in need and those with a social worker, to liaise with the Trust / Governing Body and the Local Authority on any deficiencies brought to the attention of the Trust / Governing Body and how these should be rectified without delay
- **Information sharing and managing safeguarding records** – keeping records confidential, secure and up to date, in a separate record for each child, including a clear and comprehensive summary, detailing how the concern was followed up and resolved, with a note of actions, decisions and the outcome, sharing information as

required to safeguard young people and transferring records and other relevant information to the new College within 5 days or in advance if necessary

- **Raising Awareness** – ensuring each member of staff and volunteer understands the child protection policy which is reviewed at least annually, making it available publicly, ensuring staff and trustees and/or governors have access to relevant training and induction, promoting educational outcomes by sharing relevant information about vulnerable young people
- **Training, knowledge and skills** – to undergo DSL training every two years (updating at least annually via bulletins etc.) and to attend Prevent awareness training, in order to understand assessment and referral processes, to contribute effectively to child protection conferences including the importance of sharing information, to understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have on young people and how to respond to this, to be alert to young people with specific needs e.g. SEND, those with health conditions and young carers, to understand the unique risks associated with online safety
- **Providing support to staff** – to help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, to provide support in the referral process if required and to help them to understand that safeguarding and educational outcomes are linked
- **Understanding the views of all young people** – encouraging a culture of listening to all young people (including those who are known to be disproportionately impacted by different forms of harm and abuse e.g. LGBT pupils, disabled young people or girls) and taking account of their wishes and feelings in measures taken to protect them and understanding the difficulties young people may have in approaching staff about their circumstances
- **Holding and sharing information** – sharing with safeguarding partners, other agencies and professionals and transferring records between schools and colleges in accordance with data protection legislation, keeping detailed, accurate and secure written records and understanding the purpose of this
- **The DSL will** – have a good understanding of harmful sexual behaviour; have a good understanding of the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place at our College; keep the Headteacher informed of any issues and liaise with local authority case managers and designated officers for child protection concerns as appropriate.

4 Records, Monitoring and Transfer - CPOMS

- 4.1 Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All staff are clear about the need to record and report concerns about a child or young people within the College. Records of concerns are written down, signed and dated and passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy). The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for such records and for deciding at what point these records should be shared with other agencies (in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR principles).
- 4.2 Records relating to actual or alleged abuse or neglect are stored apart from normal pupil or staff records. Normal records sometimes have markers to show that there is sensitive material stored elsewhere. This is to protect individuals from accidental access to sensitive material by those who do not need to know.

- 4.3 Child protection records are stored securely, with access confined to specific staff, e.g. the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and relevant deputies) and the Headteacher.
- 4.4 Child protection records are reviewed regularly to check whether any action or updating is needed. This includes monitoring patterns of complaints or concerns about any individuals and ensuring these are acted upon. A case file chronology, summarizing case activity and significant events in the child's life, helps to enable effective monitoring. Any actions taken are clearly indicated.
- 4.5 When young people transfer College their safeguarding records are also transferred within 5 days of them starting. Safeguarding records will be transferred separately from other records and best practice is to pass these directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead in the receiving College/ institution, with any necessary discussion or explanation and to obtain a signed and dated record of the transfer. Where a child needs specific ongoing support, relevant information will be transferred prior to the child arriving at their new College. In the event of a child moving out of area and a physical handover not being possible then the most secure method should be found to send the confidential records to a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and a photocopy kept until receipt is confirmed. Files requested by other agencies e.g. Police, are copied.
- 4.6 Safeguarding records relating to individual young people will be retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the College.
- 4.7 If a child for whom the College has, or has had, safeguarding concerns moves to another College, the DSL will ensure that their child protection file is forwarded as soon as possible, overtly, securely and separately from the main pupil file.

5 Support to pupils and College staff

- 5.1 **Support to pupils (including those with a disability or about whom there are mental health concerns)** Our College recognises that young people who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and view their lives in a positive way and that this is likely to adversely impact their mental health and emotional well-being. Young people may be vulnerable because, for instance, they have needed an allocated social worker, have a disability, are in care, a care-leaver or previously looked after, or are experiencing some form of neglect. It is therefore important that staff recognize that mental health concerns can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff are well placed to observe young people day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Where young people have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. For such young people College may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable components of their lives. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action will be taken, following this policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. Our College seeks to remove any barriers that may exist

in being able to recognise abuse or neglect in pupils with Special Educational Needs, disabilities or physical health issues. These barriers include:-

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration
- these young people being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other young people
- the potential for young people with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs, and
- communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.
- cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in schools or colleges or the consequences of doing so.

We will seek to provide such young people with the necessary support to build their self-esteem and confidence, helping them to secure the very best educational outcomes they are able to achieve. The context in which safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours occur, whether in College or within or outside the home (including online), will be considered by staff, particularly the DSL and Deputy DSLs. Any associated threats or risks will be included in assessments and relevant information included in referrals to Children's Social Care. General indicators of abuse and neglect (from Part 1 of the statutory guidance) are also included in Appendix 7 of this policy and further information about specific forms of abuse are contained within Appendix B of the statutory guidance, "Keeping Children Safe in Education".

- 5.2 **Child on child abuse** - We recognise that young people sometimes display harmful behaviour themselves and that even if there are no reports, it may still be happening. Incidents or allegations will be referred on for appropriate support and intervention. Such abuse is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at all or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up". This abuse could for example include sexual violence and sexual harassment, "upskirting", initiation/hazing type violence, all forms of bullying, abuse in intimate relationships between peers, consensual and non-consensual sharing of indecent images, causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent and physical violence (e.g. hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, etc). This may be experienced by both boys and girls, however, girls are more likely to be the victims and boys perpetrators. Some pupils may be more at risk of harm from specific issues such as sexual violence, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying or racial discrimination. We will therefore take positive action to create a culture of support and to ensure that girls and vulnerable groups such as LGBT and pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds feel confident to bring forward any concerns and have a safe space to talk to trusted staff about their experiences. There are different College and local authority or Safeguarding Children Partnership guidance and policies which detail the College's procedures to address and minimise these concerns including;
1. Pupil Behaviour Policy

2. Anti-bullying Policy
3. E-safety/Online safety Policy
4. “Guidance for schools working with young people who display harmful sexual behaviour” (Leicestershire LA Guidance)
5. DfE guidance Part 5 of “Keeping children safe in education”.

All young people will be encouraged to report to a trusted adult in College all incidents of child on child abuse wherever it may have happened and will be taught about alternative ways of doing this both in College and elsewhere. They will always be taken seriously and never given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting their concern or made to feel ashamed. It is recognised that even where no reports are received, this does not mean that such abuse is not taking place. It could just be that it has not been reported. Where an incident has occurred or specific risks are identified, the details will be added to a safeguarding or behaviour record for the young people concerned and a thorough investigation conducted by the DSL, where appropriate. A written risk assessment will be undertaken by the DSL in order to minimise the risk of further harm and to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils. Parents or carers of the young people involved will be informed as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Support plans will be written and help offered, by different adults in College (to avoid a possible conflict of interest), to the alleged victim, the child or young person accused and any other young people involved. A referral to any relevant outside agency will be made e.g. Police or Social Care. Detailed guidance and procedures are included in the linked guidance and College policies listed above.

The following steps will be taken to minimise the risk of child on child abuse:

- Staff training to ensure an understanding of what it is and how to recognise signs
- Promotion of a supportive environment by teaching about acceptable and unacceptable behaviours (including online) in both assemblies and the wider curriculum e.g. RSHE
- Clear procedures put in place to govern the use of mobile phones in College
- Appropriate staff supervision of pupils and identifying locations around the College site that are less visible and may present more risk to pupils

5.3 **Online safety** – We recognise that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues and that young people are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. Some young people may use mobile and smart technology, whilst at College (although the use of devices in College is not permitted) and outside of College, to sexually harass their peers, share indecent images (consensually and non-consensually) and view and share pornography and other harmful content. Many young people have unrestricted access to the internet via their mobile phones and our online safety policy describes the rules governing their use in College. It also sets out the College’s response to incidents which may involve one or more of the four areas of risk – content, contact, conduct and commerce. Online safety is a consideration running through the planning and implementation of all relevant policies and procedures. Staff will always respond if informed that young people have been involved in sharing indecent images. The DfE guidance “Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education

settings working with children and young people” (Dec 2020) will be used to guide the College’s response on a case by case basis.

The key points for staff and volunteers (not including the DSL) being:-

- Report immediately to the DSL
- Do not view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery, or ask a child to share or download.
- If you have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it to you before you could ask them not to), report this to the DSL (or equivalent) and seek support.
- Do not delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it. Leave this for the DSL if needed.
- Do not ask the child/children or young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL (or equivalent).
- Do not share information about the incident with other members of staff, the young person(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers.
- Do not say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved.
- Do explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL (or equivalent).

5.4 **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

- Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard.
- Wigston College recognises that AI has many uses, including enhancing teaching and learning, and in helping to protect and safeguard students. However, AI may also have the potential to facilitate abuse (e.g. bullying and grooming) and/or expose students to harmful content. For example, in the form of ‘deepfakes’, where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real.
- Wigston College will treat any use of AI to access harmful content or bully students in line with this policy and our behaviour policy.
- Staff should be aware of the risks of using AI tools whilst they are still being developed and should carry out risk assessments for any new AI tool being used by the College.

5.5 **Sexual violence and sexual harassment** – Sexual violence refers to sexual offences as described under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 including rape and sexual assault. Sexual harassment is ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline and may include sexual name-calling, taunting or “jokes” and physical behaviour, for example, deliberately brushing against someone or interfering with clothes. ‘Upskirting’ is also a criminal offence (under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019) and typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without them knowing, in order to obtain sexual gratification or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm (anyone of any gender can be a victim). Evidence shows that girls, young people with SEND and LGBT young people are more likely to be the victims of sexual violence and harassment and boys are more likely to be the perpetrators. We will take positive action to create a safe and supportive culture in College, recognising the

disproportionate vulnerability of these groups so that all pupils feel supported and have a safe space in order to speak openly with trusted adults if they wish to do sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between young people of any gender.

Curriculum

- Planned PSHE and Relationships, Sex and Health Education will include personal privacy, respect and consent so that young people will have a better understanding of how to behave towards their peers including online. This will be taught alongside other safeguarding issues as set out in the DfE statutory guidance “Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education” . This will be appropriate to pupils’ age and stage of development. It will also be underpinned by the College’s behaviour policy and pastoral support system.

Responding to an incident

- College will follow the DfE guidance on ‘Child-on child sexual violence and sexual harassment’, in Part 5 of “Keeping children safe in education”.
- Relevant staff will liaise with the police, social care and parents as appropriate.
- Support will be offered to both the alleged victim(s) and child(ren) accused. Parents will be included in discussions about the format that this support will take.

5.6 **Young people Missing (including absence from College)**– our College recognises the entitlement that all young people have to education and will work closely with the local authority Inclusion Service to share information about pupils who may be missing out on full time education or who go missing from education. The local authority will also be informed where young people are to be removed from the College register a) to be educated outside the College system; b) for medical reasons; c) because they have ceased to attend; d) because they are in custody; d) because they have been permanently excluded. We also recognise that when young people go missing this is a sign that they may have been targeted by perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation and/or drug related criminals (County Lines). Young people may also be groomed into participating in other forms of criminal exploitation including cybercrime, serious violence and violent crime. Young people who attend an alternative education provision or have an agreed reduced timetable are more likely to be vulnerable to these forms of exploitation.

5.7 **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. CSE and CCE can affect both males and females and can include young people who have been moved (trafficked) for the purpose of exploitation. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance

and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted - exploitation, as well as being physical, can be facilitated and/or take place online. CSE can include 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to sex but they may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship. A significant number of young people who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point or are targeted by criminals involved in the illegal supply of drugs (County Lines) and serious violent crime. 'County Lines' involves drug networks or individuals exploiting young people and young people into carrying drugs and money between cities, towns and villages. Serious violent crime can be associated with this form of criminal activity together with child sexual exploitation. Young people may also be exploited into committing cybercrime or money laundering offences and organised criminal groups or individuals may exploit young people with enhanced computer skills to access digital networks and/or data for criminal and financial gain. Young people with bank accounts may be persuaded to allow criminals to use their banking facilities to launder money. CCE can also involve working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing and may involve coercing young people to commit vehicle crime or serious violence towards others. It is important to note that the experience of girls can be very different to that of boys but girls are also at risk. Criminal exploitation of young people is a form of harm that can affect young people in both a physical environment and online. Staff training includes raising awareness of these issues and any concerns are passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will make a risk assessment and refer to Local Authority First Response Children's Duty if appropriate.

- 5.8 **Serious violence** – is associated with a number of risk indicators in young people including increased absence from College, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Staff will be made aware of these and of the other risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, including, being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from College, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending such as theft or robbery. Staff training will raise awareness to these risks and any concerns will be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead to co-ordinate a safeguarding response.
- 5.9 **So-called 'honour-based' abuse** - encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the so-called "honour" of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of so called Honour Based Abuse are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and concerns will be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for onward referral as required.
- 5.10 **Modern slavery and human trafficking** – can take on many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs. Young people may be trafficked into the UK from abroad or moved around the country. Staff need to be aware of indicators which include, but not limited to, neglect, isolation, poor living conditions, having few personal belongings and a lack of trust and reluctance to seek help. Staff will refer any concerns to the DSL without delay who will take action and also refer victims to the National Referral Mechanism (www.gov.uk).

- 5.11 **Private fostering arrangements** - Where a child under 16 (or 18 with a disability) is living with someone who is not their family or a close relative for 28 days or more, staff inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead so that a referral to Children’s Social Care for a safety check, can be made. (A close relative includes step-parent, grandparents, uncle, aunt or sibling).
- 5.12 **Domestic abuse** - can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Young people can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. Staff will refer concerns to the DSL and where the police have attended an incident of domestic abuse and College receive an “Operation Encompass” call, any pupil who may have been impacted will be supported.
- 5.13 Complaints or concerns raised by parents or pupils will be taken seriously and followed up in accordance with the College’s complaints process.

5.14 **Support for Staff**

As part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people staff may hear information, either from the child/young person as part of a disclosure or from another adult, that will be upsetting. Where a member of staff is distressed as a result of dealing with a child protection concern, he/she should in the first instance speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about the support they require. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will seek to arrange the necessary support.

5.15 **Concerns about a staff member, supply teacher, volunteer or contractor**

If you have concerns about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) or an allegation is made about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) posing a risk of harm to young people, speak to the Headteacher as soon as possible. If the concerns/allegations are about the Headteacher, speak to the Executive Headteacher.

Where you believe there is a conflict of interest in reporting a concern or allegation about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) to the Headteacher, report to the Executive Headteacher or Chair of Trustees or directly to the local authority designated officer (LADO).

If you receive an allegation relating to an incident where an individual or organisation was using the College premises for running an activity for young people, follow our College safeguarding policies and procedures, informing the LADO, as you would with any safeguarding allegation.

6 Working with parents/carers

The College will:

- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the College and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the College prospectus.
- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers and seek necessary consent prior to involvement of Children & Family Services (Children's Social Care) or another agency, unless to do so would place the child at risk of harm or compromise an investigation.

7 Other Relevant Policies

7.1 The Trust / Governing Body's statutory responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of young people goes beyond simply child protection. The duty is to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activity and functions. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other policies, for instance:

- Behaviour and Exclusions Policy
- Physical Interventions Policy
- Drugs Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Trips and visits
- First aid Policy
- Health and Safety
- Equality and Diversity Policy

The above list is not exhaustive but when undertaking development or planning of any kind the College will consider the implications for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

8 Recruitment and Selection of Staff (also see the Safer Recruitment policy)

8.1 The College's safer recruitment processes follow the statutory guidance: "*Keeping children safe in education, Part Three: Safer recruitment.*"

8.2 The College will provide all the relevant information in references for a member of staff about whom there have been safeguarding concerns i.e. about child protection / inappropriate conduct. Cases in which the conclusion of an allegation has been unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious will not be included in employer references. A history of repeated safeguarding concerns or allegations which have all been found to be unsubstantiated, malicious etc. will also not be included in a reference.

8.3 The College has an open safeguarding ethos regularly addressing safeguarding responsibilities during staff meetings and fostering an ongoing culture of vigilance. All

new staff and volunteers receive a safeguarding induction and are briefed on the code of conduct for adults working with young people. The Leicestershire County Council induction leaflet is given to all staff and is the basis for the safeguarding induction.

- 8.4 In line with statutory requirements, every recruitment process for College staff will have at least one member (teacher/manager or trustee/governor) who has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- 8.5 Staff and volunteers who provide early years or later years childcare and any managers of such childcare are covered by the disqualification regulations of the Childcare Act 2006 and are required to declare relevant information - see statutory guidance: Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (last updated August 2018).

APPENDIX 1

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IN CASES OF POSSIBLE, ALLEGED OR SUSPECTED ABUSE, OR SERIOUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

Contents

A	General	
B	Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults - main procedural steps	
C	Designated Safeguarding Lead – main procedural steps	

A. General

- 1) The Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures contain the inter-agency processes, protocols and expectations for safeguarding children and young people. (Available on the website www.lrsb.org.uk: The Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to be familiar with these, particularly the indicators of abuse and neglect and the referral processes.
- 2) It is important that all parties act swiftly and avoid delays.
- 3) Any person may seek advice and guidance from the First Response Children's Duty Professionals Consultation Line, particularly if there is doubt about how to proceed. Any adult, whatever their role, can take action in his/her own right to ensure that an allegation or concern is investigated and can report to the investigating agencies.
- 4) A record, dated (including the day and time) and signed, must be made as to what has been alleged, noticed and reported, and kept securely and confidentially.
- 5) In many cases of concern there will be an expectation that there have already been positive steps taken to work with parents and relevant parties to help alleviate the concerns and effect an improvement for the child. This is appropriate where it is thought a child may be in need in some way, and require assessment to see whether additional support and services are required. An example might be where it is suspected a child may be the subject of neglect. In most cases the parents' knowledge and consent to the referral are expected, unless there is reason for this not being in the child's interest. However, there will be circumstances when informing the parent/carer of a referral might put the child at risk and/or undermine Police enquiries, and in individual cases, advice from Children's Social Care will need to be taken.

B. Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults – main procedural steps

- 1) When a child makes a disclosure, or when concerns are received from other sources, do not investigate, ask leading questions, examine or photograph young people, or promise confidentiality. Young people making disclosures should be reassured and if possible at this stage should be informed what action will be taken next.

- 2) As soon as possible make a dated (including the day), timed and signed record of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done and report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the College.
- 3) If the concern involves the conduct of a member of staff or volunteer, a visitor, a trustee, a governor, a trainee or another young person or child, the Headteacher must be informed.
- 4) If the concern is regarding the Headteacher, the Executive Headteacher should be informed.
- 5) If the safeguarding concern or allegation is about the Headteacher, the information should normally be passed to the Chair of Trustees, or failing that to the Local Authority Allegations Manager (LADO).
- 5) If this has not already been done, inform the child (or other party who has raised the concern) what action you have taken.

C. Designated Safeguarding Lead – main procedural steps

- 1) Begin an individual case record for each child involved which will hold a record of communications and actions to be stored securely (see section on Records, Monitoring and Transfer). Include a chronology of case activity.
- 2) Where initial enquiries do not justify a referral to the investigating agencies, inform the initiating adult and monitor the situation. If in doubt, seek advice from the First Response professionals consultation line.
- 3) Share information confidentially with those who need to know.
- 4) Where there is a child protection concern requiring immediate, same day, intervention from Children’s Social Care, the First Response Children’s Duty should be contacted by phone (contact the local authority Children’s Services where the child lives). Written confirmation should be made within 24 hours on the Multi-Agency Referral Form to Children’s Social Care. All other referrals should be made using the online form (see link <http://lrsb.org.uk/childreport>).
- 5) If the concern is about young people using harmful sexual behaviour, also refer to the separate guidance, “Guidance for School’s working with young people who display harmful sexual behaviour” (Leicestershire LA Guidance).
- 6) If it appears that urgent medical attention is required arrange for the child to be taken to hospital (normally this means calling an ambulance) accompanied by a member of staff who must inform medical staff that non-accidental injury is suspected. Parents must be informed that the child has been taken to hospital.
- 7) Exceptional circumstances: If it is feared that the child might be at immediate risk on leaving College, take advice from the First Response Professionals Consultation line (for instance about difficulties if the College day has ended, or on whether to contact the police). Remain with the child until the Social Worker takes responsibility. If in these circumstances a parent arrives to collect the child, the member of staff has no right to

withhold the child, unless there are current legal restrictions in force (e.g. a restraining order). If there are clear signs of physical risk or threat, First Response Children's Duty should be updated and the Police should be contacted immediately.

APPENDIX 2

PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS OR ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF (INCLUDING HEADTEACHERS), SUPPLY TEACHERS, VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS

These procedures should be followed in all cases in which there is an allegation or safeguarding concern that a person working with young people has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved towards a child or young people in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to young people; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with young people.

There is also a College “Low-level concerns policy” which should be followed if the concern does not meet the allegations threshold above or is not considered serious enough to make a referral to the LADO.

Relevant documents:

- DfE “Keeping children safe in education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (part 4: Allegations made against/concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors)

1) Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults who receive the allegation:

- i. Write and sign a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.
- ii. Report immediately to the Headteacher.
- iii. Pass on the written record.
- iv. If the allegation is about the Headteacher, report to the Executive Headteacher.
- v. If the allegation or safeguarding concern is about the conduct of the Headteacher, report immediately to the Chair of Trustees. Pass on the written record. (If there is difficulty reporting to the Chair of Trustees, contact the Allegations Manager (LADO), Safeguarding and Performance Unit as soon as possible.)

2) Headteacher (or Chair of Trustees)

- i. If there is no written record, write and sign a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.

- ii. Before taking further action notify and seek advice from the Allegations Manager (LADO), Safeguarding and Improvement Unit on the same day.
- iii. You may be asked to clarify details or the circumstances of the allegation, but this must not amount to an investigation at this stage.
- iv. Report to First Response Children's Duty if the Allegations Manager (LADO) so advises or if circumstances require a referral concerning a child.
- v. Ongoing involvement in cases:
 - Liaison with the Allegations Manager (LADO)
 - Co-operation with the investigating agency's enquiries as appropriate (including working closely with the employment agency in the case of supply teachers).
 - Consideration of employment issues and possible disciplinary action where the investigating agencies take no further action.
 - Possible referral to the DBS or The Teaching Regulation Agency, depending on the outcome.

APPENDIX 3

Low-level Concerns Policy

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This policy sets out a framework whereby staff are expected to report concerns, no matter how small, about their own behaviour or that of another member of staff, volunteer, supply teacher, contractor or other person working in College. Its purpose is to help create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the clear values and expected behaviour set out in the “Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (Feb 2022) (sometimes called the safeguarding code of conduct) are lived, monitored, and reinforced.
- 1.2 The policy should be read in conjunction with the current statutory guidance – “Keeping Children Safe in Education” Part 4, Section 2.

2.0 Who does the policy apply to?

- 2.1 This policy applies to all staff and other individuals who work or volunteer in College. This also applies to any concerns relating to an individual or organisation that use the College premises.

3.0 Definition of a low-level concern

- 3.1 A low-level concern is any concern, no matter how small, even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a ‘nagging doubt’, that a person working in or on behalf of the College may have acted in a way that:
- is inconsistent with the “Guidance for safer working practice” (Feb 2022), including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and
 - does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to make a referral to the LADO

4.0 Reporting low-level concerns

- 4.1 Where a low-level concern has been identified this will be reported as soon as possible to the **headteacher**. However, it is never too late to share a low-level concern if this has not already happened.
- 4.2 Where the headteacher is not available, the information will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy (i.e. the most senior member of SLT acting in this role).
- 4.3 Low-level concerns about the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be reported to the headteacher and those about the headteacher will be reported to the CEO/ Executive Headteacher (Mark Mitchley) or the Chair of Trustees (Pauline Munroe). A low-level concern about a supply teacher or contractor will be reported to their employer.
- 4.4 Where the low-level concern has been reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, they will inform the headteacher of the details as soon as possible.

5.0 Recording concerns

- 5.1 A summary of the low-level concern should be written down, signed, timed, dated and shared by the person bringing the information forward.

5.2 Where concerns are reported verbally to the headteacher a record of the conversation will be made by the headteacher which will be signed, timed, and dated.

6.0 Responding to low-level concerns

6.1 Where a low-level concern has been raised this will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly. The headteacher will:

- Speak to the person reporting the concern to gather all the relevant information
- Speak to the individual about the concern raised to ascertain their response, unless advised not to do so by the LADO or Police (HR advice may also need to be taken).
- Where necessary further investigation will be carried out to gather all relevant information. This may involve speaking to any potential witnesses.
- The information reported and gathered will then be reviewed to determine whether the behaviour,

i) is consistent with the “Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (Feb 2022): no further action will be required,

ii) constitutes a low-level concern: no further action is required, or additional training/guidance/support may be required to rectify the behaviour via normal day to day management processes. The employee should understand that failure to improve or a repeat of the behaviour may lead to further action being taken, e.g. either via the Performance Management Policy or Disciplinary Policy.

iii) is serious enough to consult with or refer to the LADO: a referral should be made to the LADO and advice taken from HR. In this case the College’s Managing Allegations procedure within the Safeguarding Policy and Disciplinary Policy will be followed.

iv) when considered with any other low-level concerns that have previously been raised about the same individual, should be reclassified as an allegation and referred to the LADO or Police: a referral should be made to the LADO and advice taken from HR. In this case the College’s Managing Allegations procedure within the Safeguarding Policy and Disciplinary Policy will be followed.

- Records will be made of, i) all internal conversations including any relevant witnesses, ii) all external conversations e.g. with the LADO iii) the decision and the rationale for it, iv) any action taken

7.0 Can the reporting person remain anonymous?

7.1 The person bringing forward the concern will be named in the written record. Where they request to remain anonymous this will be respected as far as possible. However, there may be circumstances where this is not possible e.g. where a fair disciplinary investigation is needed or where a later criminal investigation is required.

8.0 Should staff report concerns about themselves (i.e. self-report)?

8.1 It may be the case that a person finds themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, or might appear compromising to others; or they may have behaved in a manner which on reflection they consider falls below the standard set out in the “Guidance for safer working practice”. In these circumstances they should self-report.

This will enable a potentially difficult situation to be addressed at an early opportunity if necessary.

9.0 Where behaviour is consistent with the “Guidance for safer working practice” (2022)

9.1 Feedback will be given to both parties to explain why the behaviour was consistent with the “Guidance for safer working practice”.

10.0 Should the low-level concerns file be reviewed?

10.1 The records will be reviewed periodically, and whenever a new low-level concern is added, so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified and referred to the LADO if required. A record of these reviews will be retained.

11.0 References

11.1 Low-level concerns will not be included in references unless a low-level concern, or group of concerns, has met the threshold for referral to the LADO and found to be substantiated.

12.0 What is the role of the Trust / Governing Body?

12.1 The headteacher will regularly inform the Trust / Governing Body about the implementation of the low-level concerns policy including any evidence of its effectiveness e.g. with relevant data. The Safeguarding Trustee/Governor may also review an anonymised sample to ensure that these concerns have been handled appropriately.

APPENDIX 4

Safeguarding pupils who are vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation

Our College recognises the duties placed on us by the Counter Terrorism Bill (July 2015) to prevent our pupils being drawn into terrorism.

These include:

- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism
- Working in partnership with relevant agencies (including making referrals) under the Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures
- Appropriate staff training
- Appropriate online filtering

Our College is committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The pupils are encouraged to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

There is a current threat from terrorism in the UK and this can include the exploitation of vulnerable young people, aiming to involve them in terrorism or to be active in supporting terrorism.

Our College seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islamist Ideology, Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology etc. Concerns should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who has local contact details for the Prevent Engagement Team (Police) and Channel referrals. They will also consider whether circumstances require Police to be contacted urgently.

APPENDIX 5

Female Genital Mutilation

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 places a mandatory duty on teachers along with social workers and healthcare professionals to report to the police where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 or where a girl discloses that she has undergone FGM. The College's response to FGM will take into account the government guidance, "Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation" updated July 2020. Staff will also follow the established safeguarding procedure by reporting any such concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and a report must also be made to the Police.

There will be a considered safeguarding response towards any girl who is identified as being at risk of FGM (e.g. there is a known history of practising FGM in her family, community or country of origin) which may include sensitive conversations with the girl and her family, sharing information with professionals from other agencies and/or making a referral to Children's Social Care. If the risk of harm is imminent there are a number of emergency measures that can be taken including police protection, an FGM protection order and an Emergency Protection Order.

APPENDIX 6

Indicators of abuse and neglect

Abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on young people. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing young people frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of young people. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving young people in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other young people. The sexual abuse of young people by other young people is a specific safeguarding issue in education.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy, for example, as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.